

Alexandria Gazette

THE WEATHER
Fair and warmer today; fair
and continued warmer to-
morrow; gentle southerly winds.
High tide 8:47 a. m. and 9:14
p. m.
Sun rose 5:05. Sun sets 7:21.

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ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, MONDAY JULY 31 1916.

PRICE 2 CENTS

EXPLOSION AT NEW YORK

Several Persons Known to
Be Dead and Others
Injured

A MYSTERIOUS BARGE

Report Heard in Several States—
Loss Estimated at Over Twenty-
Five Million Dollars

New York, July 31—Property loss estimated at \$25,000,000 was caused early yesterday by a series of terrific explosions of ammunition awaiting shipment to the Entente Allies and stored on Black Tom Island, a small strip of land jutting into New York Bay off Jersey City. The loss of life still is problematical. It will not be decided definitely until there has been opportunity to check up the workmen employed on the island and on boats moored nearby.

Two are known to be dead and at least two more are missing. Scores of persons were injured, some of them probably mortally.

The detonations, which were left in five states, began with a continuous rapid fire of small shells, then the blowing up of great quantities of dynamite, trinitrotoluene and other high explosives, followed by the bursting of thousands of shrapnel shells, which literally showered the surrounding country and waters for many miles around.

Fire that started soon after the first great crash which spread death and desolation in its wake, destroyed 13 of the huge warehouses of the National Storage Company on Black Tom Island, in which were stored merchandise valued between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000. The flames, shooting into the clouds, were reflected against New York's "sky line" of towering office buildings, which only a few moments before were shaken to their foundations by an earthquake. Miles of streets in Manhattan alone were strewn with broken glass and shattered signs.

Early reports of heavy loss of life were impossible of verification, and the authorities asserted the number of deaths probably would be small. It was said that owing to the extent of the wreckage it might be several days before the exact figures could be obtained.

The cause of the disaster had not been determined tonight. Officials of the National Storage Company and the Lehigh Valley Railroad, which also suffered heavily through loss of property, declared, however, that reports to them showed a fire started shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday morning on a barge belonging to an independent towing company that had been moored alongside a dock used by the railroad company to transfer ammunition shipments from trains to vessels in the harbor.

The barge, it was said, was there without authority either of the railroad or the storage company. The officials refused to disclose the name of the independent towing company, saying they were investigating "to ascertain whether the barge purposely had been set on fire as the result of a plot."

FIRE IN PETROGRAD.

Twelve Large Steamers and Gun Works Destroyed.
Berlin, July 31—Reports of a great conflagration at Petrograd, in which a bridge across the River Neva, 12 large steamers, including several transatlantic liners, and the Putiloff gun works and other establishments were destroyed, are printed in the Lokal Anzeiger.

DEATH NOTICE.

Died, Sunday night, July 30, 1916, at midnight, Mary E. J. Johnson, daughter of the late John Morgan and Rebecca J. Johnson. Funeral from her late residence, 1010 Prince street, at 5 p. m., August 1, 1916. Interment private.

Hard Shelled Crabs at the Ramal Cafe, Royal Street.

CASE OF T. E. STRIPLING.

Former Chief of Police of Danville Liberated

Atlanta, Ga., July 31—Thomas Edgar Stripling, who served as chief of police of Danville, Va., for almost four of the fourteen years that he was an escaped convict, has been granted a full pardon by Governor Nat E. Harris.

Since the first day that "Chief R. E. Morris," of Danville, was brought back to Georgia to resume his life sentence as Stripling, influential attempts were made through three State Administrations to have him pardoned. All these failed, however, until Governor Harris went to Milledgeville, in July, 1915, to inspect the State Prison Farm. While there one of Stripling's eight children, a girl of six ran to him in the prison grounds and bashfully pleaded to "Please let my papa out, because he is sick, and we all need him so bad." The incident touched the aged Governor, and he promised "to send your father back to you some time during his term."

Stripling, on November 4, 1897, shot and killed W. J. Cornett, his neighbor in Harris County, Ga. He fired through a window of Cornett's house. He surrendered at Columbus, Ga., a few days afterward, and eventually was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Stripling testified at the trial—and it was corroborated—that Cornett had insulted both his wife and married sister; that Cornett had threatened to kill him, and that, when passing Cornett's house the night of the killing, he could not restrain himself from shooting when he saw Cornett passing a window with a light in his hand. He claimed self-defense, as he said he believed "It was either Cornett's life or mine some time."

He escaped from the Harris County jail when his case was awaiting the outcome of an appeal. He remained hidden about two months at the home of his uncle in Harris County and then made his way to north Carolina, where his wife joined him in 1899. Under the name of R. E. Morris, he did different kinds of work in several towns for a number of years. Finally he was employed by the Southern Railway as a special agent. That work took him to Danville, where he had been about one year when he obtained a place on the police force. Nine months later he was elected chief of police.

Stripling has said there were two men in Danville who knew his life story, but they remained silent. Finally a man well known in Harris County saw him, and soon afterwards reports as to Stripling's whereabouts were made. These reports seemed to W. W. Smith, a private detective, to warrant investigation. He obtained requisition papers from Governor Brown and proceeded to Danville. Smith established the identification beyond doubt.

On March 4, 1911, the Danville Council was to elect a chief of police and it is said Stripling was practically assured of re-election, notwithstanding some opposition had arisen because he killed a young white man who had resisted arrest, killed a negro who was attempting to rob his home, and shot another negro while resisting arrest. He was exonerated of blame in each case.

On the afternoon of March 3, however, Smith presented the requisition papers to Danville authorities. Stripling was confronted with the fact, and admitted his identity. Stripling requested the Mayor and members of Council, who at that time were unaware of his plight, to meet that night, as he had an important statement to make. Before the body that probably would have elected him chief for another term the next night he stood handcuffed and told the story of the shooting of "Bill Cornett," of his escape and movements during the nearly fourteen years of freedom. He still wore his uniform when placed in jail in Georgia.

DEATH NOTICE

Died, July 29, 1916, at the residence of his father, R. J. Mumford, 510 Queen street, Charles Mumford, aged 34 years. Funeral will be held Tuesday, August 1, at 2 p. m. Gone in the best of his days, Blighted in manhood's bloom; Gone from those who loved him; To sleep in the silent tomb.

DEVILED & HARD SHELL CRABS AT JACOB PRILL'S FOOT KING ST

PRESIDENT TO FORCE FIGHT

Will Not Permit His Administration to Assume
Defensive

NO APOLOGY TO MAKE

Hughes Will Face Question, "What Would You Have Done if You Had Been in Power?"

Washington, July 31—If the leaders of the Hughes campaign have imagined that President Wilson will permit his Administration to assume a defensive attitude throughout the coming fight these leaders will have to reckon again. It can be stated, authoritatively that Mr. Wilson entertains no such notion. On the contrary, he and his party associates mean to force the issues all along the line. This applies to questions of foreign policy to exactly the same extent that it applies to question of domestic policy.

From the Hughes headquarters comes the report that the Republican candidate will make a blanket assault upon the Administration in his speech of acceptance. This challenge will be squarely met in the address which the President will make to the Democratic notification committee, and from that time on the Republicans will have to maneuver skillfully if they maintain the offensive throughout the campaign.

In a general way the Democratic counter to Mr. Hughes' attack will centre around the question: "What would you have done if you had been in power?" This will be followed by a line of specific questioning which the Republican nominee must satisfactorily answer before he can successfully assail his opponent. These questions have already been formulated and will be about as follows:

Do you think President Wilson went too far or not far enough in the submarine controversy with Germany?

If you had been President would you have resorted to the processes of diplomacy and statesmanship to preserve peace, or would you have forced war with Germany?

Would you have intervened in Mexico at any stage, knowing that intervention means war and nothing but war?

Would you have called out the National Guard when it seemed that Carranza was about to attack the Pershing expedition with armed forces?

Do you believe that any hyphenated movement worked to bring about the defeat of Theodore Roosevelt's nomination at the Republican Convention?

If a hyphenated conspiracy did accomplish Colonel Roosevelt's defeat, how do you feel about the exercises and extent of such influences in American politics?

Would you repeal the Federal Trade Commission act, the Federal Reserve act, the Rural Credits act or the Good Roads act?

Are you for or against the Tariff Commission bill supported by the business interests of the country, or would you ignore the findings of such a commission and urge the repeal of the act creating such a body.

Why didn't the Republican party reform the currency and give the country a sound banking system when it was in power?

Why did the Republican party fail to give the farmers a rural credits system during its period of control of the Government?

Is the country prosperous? Is the foreign trade of the United States greater than ever before in its history, and is American business on a sound basis, or is it enjoying only an artificial stimulation due to war orders?

If this prosperity is artificial, what would you do, if elected, to give it substance and prevent a collapse after the war is over?

What was the condition of the army and navy when Theodore Roosevelt left the White House after seven years of domination of the Government?

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PREPARE FOR REVIVAL

Committee Makes House-to-House
Canvass Preliminary to Gypsy
Smith Meetings

The house-to-house canvass of the city, inaugurated in order to make a census of the entire church-going population of Alexandria, to facilitate the work of which the city was recently divided into 22 districts, and a district supervisor appointed over each division, has been completed, according to announcement of the general committee of laymen having in charge the evangelistic campaign to be conducted in this city during the month of September.

While the canvass was not supposed to commence officially until yesterday, Sunday, July 30, by the time the early church bells were tolling their solemn notes, according to their usual wont yesterday morning, most of the superintendents, assisted by over two hundred persons unofficially connected with the canvass, had finished their work, and but a small amount of soliciting was necessary yesterday.

By evening time everything had been done, and now returns are pouring into the office of James R. Caton, the chairman of the general committee. Mr. Caton stated that as soon as the returns are filed by him in proper form he will announce the same.

Mr. Caton said this morning that the recent canvass will form an official census for the churches of this city and will determine just how many members of each church attend regularly, and other items of vital importance to the churches. This will mean, Mr. Caton said, upbuilding of the parish work of every church in this city Israelite, Catholic, Protestant, and of every denomination.

Interest in the proposed revival campaign is being increased daily and the preparations are taking on larger and more complete proportions. Meetings of the various subcommittees, under the general supervision of the general committee of laymen, are holding meetings almost daily, each preparing some special feature for the revivals.

Perhaps the most interesting of the features of the campaign was that recently announced by the committee of ladies which serves as an auxiliary to the committees formed from the male members of Protestant church congregations. This committee will have a side tent erected next to the large gospel tent in which the revivals are to be held and which will be located on the part of the old fair ground situated in the rear of the Second Baptist Church on upper King street. In the smaller tent infant children and babies will be "checked" and cared for by nurses while the mothers are in attendance at the services. This is a novel idea and will enable many women of the city to receive the benefit of the revivals who otherwise would have been unable to attend.

In this connection it might be suggested that a recent innovation in moving picture theatres in parts of the country might be serviceable. These amusement places have tents checked at the door by mothers for a nominal fee, and have nurses to care for the small children. If any infant becomes sick or cannot be quieted, the number of its check is passed on to the operating room where the operator stops, the film, for instant and flashes on the screen the number of check. The mother of the child in the audience, who holds the duplicate check, sees the number on the screen, and knows that her child needs her.

Big Time on
ELK'S EXCURSION
to Colonial Beach
THURSDAY, AUGUST 3rd. 1916
Dancing on Boat
Novelties for ladies and children
Tickets:—Adults 50c—Children 25c
Secure your tickets from the committee.

VON BOTHMER OUTFLAMED

Teuton Army on the Strip
Threatened With
Disaster

RUSSIANS MOVING ON

Kovel and Lemberg May Be Evacuated—Entente Allies' Prospects
Brighter Than Ever

London, July 31—The opening of the present week finds the prospects of the Entente Allies perhaps brighter than in any previous period of the war, according to the views held here, and the position of the Central Powers more discouraging.

General Brusiloff's striking victories present the German General Staff with the imperative of him to reinforce the eastern front, since General von Linsingen, who was sent by the Germans to aid the shattered Austrians, now has been completely thrust back from the Lutsk salient.

But the same problem is presented on the western front, where, says an unofficial correspondent, "the ceaseless battle seems steadily to gain intensity. Doubtless the constant arrival of fresh German troops and guns," he adds, "has everything to do with this result. The enemy shows an increasing tendency to counter-attack."

These counter-attacks have failed to stem the steady Entente allied advance, and although at the present moment the fighting on the Somme is mainly devoted to securing mastery of small strategic positions, which will be the keys to further progress, there is yet no sign of the Germans making any effective counter-offensive.

The Russians' remarkable victories reveal a most interesting situation. The theory of the German general Count von Bothmer, holding the Strip near the Lemberg-Tarnopol Railroad, was a few weeks ago being outflanked on the south by General Letchitzky's successful advance, when the Dniester floods prevented Letchitzky's further progress. This enabled Von Bothmer to hold on to the threatened positions. General Sakharoff then devoted himself to enveloping Von Bothmer's forces on the north, with what success is seen in his double victory west of Lutsk and at Brody.

Thus, outflanked north and south, it is considered impossible that Count von Bothmer can longer delay evacuating himself from his precarious position, even if he now can do so without serious losses. The Russians at Brody are at present nearer Lemberg than Von Bothmer's forces, which are entrusted with Lemberg's defense, and, although the country between Brody and Lemberg is very difficult, it becomes a question whether the evacuation of both Kovel and Lemberg will not soon become necessary.

"THE WORLD'S CONVERSION"

Conditions Which, it is Believed,
Will Prevail at the Second Advent

Evangelist Gibson used the words at the head of this article as a basis for his remarks at the gospel tent last night. Among other things he said:

"Jesus Christ said as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man. The antediluvians would not believe the gospel delivered through Noah, and, as a result, all save the patriarch and his family perished. So shall it be when the Son of God shall come the second time without sin (i. e. without a sin offering). The people are not willing now to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, nor are they willing to live it. Only a few out of all the people on the earth will be watching for the return of the Bridegroom."

The subject for the discourse tonight will be "The Book of the Revelation." All are welcome to the meetings.

NEWS OF THE DAY

Thirty horses were killed and a loss of \$30,000 was caused by a fire yesterday which destroyed a two-story brick storage and stable building of the Trainor Confection Company at 151st street and 8th avenue, New York.

John Sharer, a farmer living near Williamsport Md., charged with cruelly treating his wife, has been arrested. Sharer is alleged to have used his wife on a plow and she rebelled, when the weather got hot, against such treatment. It is then he is alleged to have beat her.

In an interview Gen. Sir Sam Hughes says Canada's message to England was: "To persevere is to conquer." "No peace terms must be discussed," the commander of the chief of the Canadian forces continues, "except the complete surrender of Germany. Canada is determined to fight to the finish. The Canadian army is nearly 400,000 strong."

More than 150 lives have been lost in furious forest fires which are sweeping the Northern section of the province, according to information received in Toronto, Ontario. Four or five towns are reported wiped out. Cochrane, a town of 1,700 population has been wiped out, while Timmons and Matheson also have been destroyed.

Special dispatches from Saloniki say that Serbian successes on the Greek frontier continue, and the Serbians are intrenching on a line only 300 yards from the frontier. On Thursday a large force of Bulgarians attacked the Serbian positions north of Strupino but a powerful counter attack routed them and the Bulgarians fled in disorder, leaving many dead, together with considerable quantities of material.

An investigation is being made of an attack by Mexicans upon a special train bearing a detachment of the First Delaware infantry early yesterday near Sierra Blanca, Tex. After leaving Sierra Blanca, en route to El Paso, the train was fired on and a great number of rocks were thrown into the coaches along the railway right of way. The lights in the coaches were extinguished and the attack then ceased.

Great Britain is warned in the American note to protest against the blacklist, made public last night by the State Department, of the "many serious consequences to neutral rights and neutral relations which such an act must necessarily involve. Already in the hands of the British foreign office, the note declares "in the gravest terms" that it is "manifestly out of the question that the government of the United States should acquiesce in such methods," and the United States regards the blacklist as "inevitably and essentially inconsistent with the rights of all the citizens of all the nations not involved in the war."

All-day services were held yesterday in the Episcopal Church at Dumfries in commemoration of the 164th anniversary of church life in Prince William county. The present edifice rests upon stones which formed a part of the foundation of the church erected upon the same site in 1752. The churchyard surrounding the little chapel is the last resting place of ancestors of men and women whose names are known to Virginia history, in literature and in the affairs of church and State. The little village of Dumfries, early in the seventeenth century, one of the foremost seaport towns in Virginia, is now situated at the head of Quantico Creek, where navigation is impossible for even a small canoe.

U-BOAT TO DASH TO SEA

Batimore, July 31—At 1:30 the tug Thomas F. Timmins started its engines and began clearing away the barges obstructing away the passage of the German super-submarine Deutschland now snuggling at the foot on Andre street.

There is every indication of immediate departure.

Bremen will reach the three mile limit tonight, and in the early morning the Deutschland will go down the bay. This was let slip by a member of the big U-boat's crew.

TROUBLE ON THE BORDER

Nine Are Said to be Dead
From Latest Raid in
Texas

FOUR U. S. MEN VICTIMS

Americans Open Fire and Five Mexicans Are Slain in Vicinity of Fort Hancock

El Paso, July 31—Five Mexicans and four American soldiers were killed in a fight this morning near Fort Hancock, fifty miles east of El Paso.

The Mexicans crossed into Texas and were attacked by the Americans. The dead are troopers of the Eighth U. S. Cavalry, who were killed in a running fight with Mexican bandits near Fort Stockton early today, according to reports here. The detachment of cavalry killed five of the Mexicans.

Disturbing reports have come to the State Department that Carranza will reject the additions made in Washington to his suggestions in the note of July 21 for settlement of border troubles by a commission.

Strong apprehension was felt today that a serious slip may ensue in the negotiations between the two governments. The Mexican peace discussions are at a standstill pending receipt of Carranza's official reply.

Carranza submitted three propositions for consideration by a joint commission. All related to military movements across the border. If reports now coming from Mexico City are reliable, Carranza will continue to insist the commission parleys be confined to discussion of three subjects he suggested—withdrawal of American troops, a protocol governing reciprocal crossing of the border by military forces of both nations, and responsibility for past border raids.

Officials admitted today that Carranza played shrewd diplomacy in framing his suggestion for a border conference. All three proposals, it was pointed out, get back to the same thing—withdrawal of troops.

EXPOSED TO THE SUN

Traffic Policemen on King Street Suffer From Old Sol.

Motorists, passengers in other vehicles, and pedestrians, were surprised yesterday at seeing Alexandria's traffic policemen, who are stationed at the intersections of King street with Alfred and Washington streets, respectively, standing in the middle of the corners in the same old manner, without protection from the sun's rays in the intense July-August heat.

It was announced that at the recent meeting of the board of police commissioners, J. E. Shinn, secretary to the board, had been instructed to order two large umbrellas, such as those used by traffic officers in Washington, to be placed on stands in the places occupied by the local officers. Yesterday, therefore, as Sunday is the only day in the week policemen are stationed at the above corners, it was expected to see the men protected by large sunshades, and when it was found they were without the protection supposed to be ordered for them, no little surprise was felt by passing residents.

Understanding has come now that the matter will probably be held up until the city council decides whether or not such stands and umbrellas will block the city streets, and anyway, it is very likely that the policemen will have to wait until September 1, at least when council holds its first session after its summer adjournment in order that the matter may be officially stamped with the approval of the city fathers.

The health department reported 145 new cases of infantile paralysis in Greater New York, as against 115 cases on the previous Sunday. The continued hot weather during the past week is said to be the cause.